

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the January 12, 2009 Office Action. In the Office Action, claims 18-28 stand rejected. Claim 18 has been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 18 may be found, for example, in Figs. 1A and 1B and in the specification at page 6, lines 1-5.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by International Publication No. WO 01/17012 to Peters et al. In view of the foregoing amendment and the following comments, reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Amended independent claim 18 recites, *inter alia*, “first and second co-acting mould parts which are displaceable relative to each other between an encapsulating position, in which the mould parts, when closing onto the carrier, occupy a position for defining at least one mould cavity that encloses at least a portion of the carrier, and an opened position in which the mould parts are situated at a greater distance from each other than in the encapsulating position, and feed means, for encapsulating material connecting onto at least one projecting edge under which is located a receiving space for a part of the carrier, wherein the projecting edge forms a stationary assembly with the first mould part, and the first mould part also receives a movable support for the carrier that is displaceable within the first mould part relative to the edge such that the carrier can be urged against the projecting edge with a controllable force.”

In the *Response to Arguments* section on pages 7 and 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner continues to assert that the holder member (17) teaches a first mould part and the chamfered edge (11) teaches a projecting edge as recited in independent claim 18. As discussed in the Amendment filed December 22, 2008, the holder (10, 17) of Peters does not define at least one mould cavity that encloses at least a portion of the carrier and cannot be interpreted as one of the mould parts of the present invention. Rather, the holder (10, 17) of Peters defines a runner (12) for the moulding material.

However, even if the holder member (17) of Peters is considered to be a mould part, the Peters reference fails to disclose or suggest a first mould part that receives a movable support for the carrier that is displaceable within the first mould part relative to the projecting edge as recited in independent claim 18. In the Peters reference, the lower mould part (3) supports the carrier (5) and remains stationary while the holder member (10) with the chamfered end (11) is moved toward lower mould part (3) to engage an edge of the carrier (5) (see page 4, line 32 to page 5, line 2). Further, the holder (17) and plunger (8) do not support the carrier and cannot be interpreted as a movable support as recited in claim 18. Thus, the holder (17) of Peters does not receive a movable support for the carrier that is displaceable within the holder (17) relative to the chamfered end (11) as in the claimed invention. Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, the Peters reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of independent claim 18. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 19-22 depend from, and add further limitations to, independent claim 18 and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with independent claim 18.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Peters in view of JP 7-205214 to Yoshihiro. Claims 25 and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over Peters alone. Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Peters in view of JP 7-80895 to Shigeya. In view of the Declaration and the following comments, reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

With respect to independent claim 25, the Office Action at page 6 states that “[i]t would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Peters et al. in order to move the third mould part (3) toward a stationary chamfered outer end (11) since it has been held that mere reversal of movement between parts is obvious....” Applicants respectfully submit that the differences between the present invention and the Peters reference are not a mere reversal of movement between parts. As discussed above, the lower mould part (3) of Peters supports the carrier (5)

and remains stationary while the holder member (10) with the chamfered end (11) is moved toward lower mould part (3) to engage an edge of the carrier (5) (see page 4, line 32 to page 5, line 2). The difference between Peters and the claimed invention is not merely moving the lower mould part (3) of Peters to engage the chamfered edge (11). In contrast, independent claim 25 recites that "the support part is moved in the first mould part towards the projecting edge that is kept stationary." The Peters reference fails to teach or suggest the support part being moved in the first mould part and reversing the movement of the parts in Peters fails to teach the claimed invention. As discussed in the specification of the present application at page 2, for example, moving the support part into contact with the projecting edge allows the moving part to be free from contact with the encapsulating material thereby reducing the chance of delamination.

Additionally, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference is a *Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132*, executed by Michel H. L. Teunissen, attesting to the commercial success of the present invention. The requisite nexus between the claimed invention and the commercial success is evidenced by ¶¶ 3, 5 and 6 in the *Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132*.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons and the statements set forth in Applicants 1.132 Declaration, Applicants believe that independent claim 25 is not rendered obvious by any of the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 25 are respectfully requested.

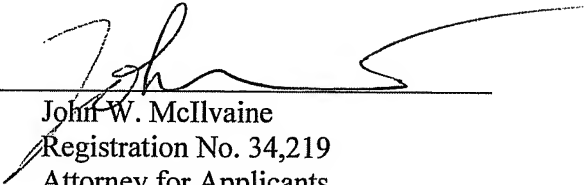
Claims 23, 24 and 26-28 depend from, and add further limitations to, either independent claim 18 or independent claim 25 and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with independent claims 18 and 25.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment, comments and 1.132 Declaration, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 18-28 and allowance of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
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